



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

21 AUGUST 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Roseville – Five Teenage Boys Arrested For Racially-Charged Vandalism

(U) Roseville police arrested five teenage boys yesterday on charges of vandalizing Buljan Middle School, including spray painting walls with swastikas, gang slogans, and derogatory language. Officers found similar graffiti on buildings at Vencil Brown Elementary School, which is less than a mile from Buljan Middle School. There was also damage reported in Buljan Park. The boys, ages 14 to 16 years old, were arrested for vandalism motivated by hate, burglary and conspiracy.

SOURCE: 20 August 2017, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Far-Right Protests Leave US Cities Scrambling to Balance Safety, Free Speech

(U) Washington – Cities across the United States are seeking ways to head off the kind of violence seen in Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend when white nationalists and neo-Nazis clashed with counter-protesters over the planned removal of a Civil War-era statue. As they step up efforts to pull such monuments from public spaces and brace for a right-wing backlash, municipalities are re-evaluating their approaches to crowd control, permits, weapon regulation, and intelligence gathering. Mayors face a tug-of-war between ensuring public safety and respecting Americans' cherished constitutional freedoms of speech and assembly, said experts and local leaders. The balancing act is further complicated by the right to carry guns, and even concealed weapons, in many states and cities.

SOURCE: 18 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – University Removes 'White Supremacy' Statues Overnight

(U) Austin – The University of Texas at Austin removed the statues of three Confederate-era figures from a main area on campus today, saying they had become symbols of white supremacy and that they were taken down overnight to avoid confrontations. Several cities have targeted Confederate symbols in response to the violence in Charlottesville. They include Baltimore, Maryland, which removed four monuments to the Confederacy in a pre-dawn operation last week, and Birmingham, Alabama, where the mayor vowed to seek the removal of a Confederate monument in his city.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Finland – Suspect Targeted Women in Terror Attack

(U) Turku – Police in Finland say a knifeman who killed two Finnish women in the southwestern city of Turku on 18 August appeared to choose women as targets and are treating the attack as a terrorist incident. Eight people were also injured, among them a Briton, a Swede, and an Italian. The court identified Abderrahman Mechkah as the 18-year-old Moroccan asylum-seeker suspected of the attacks. Police said in a statement: "The act had been investigated as murder, but during the night we received additional information which indicates that the criminal offenses are now terrorist killings."

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [BBC News](#)

(U) France – Vehicle Ramming Kills One, No Terrorist Motive Seen

(U) Marseille – At least one person was killed and another injured in Marseille today when a van crashed into two bus shelters in different parts of the French city, police said, in an incident not being treated as terrorism at this stage. Police advised the public to avoid the Old Port area where the driver, a 35-year-old man, was arrested. A source close to the investigation told Reuters the suspect was known to police for minor crimes and had psychological issues. France's counter-terrorism prosecutor said it had not taken up the case at this stage.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Some 115 Migrants Rescued From Truck

(U) Playa Munecos – Police in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz have rescued 115 migrants, including 41 minors, traveling in "deplorable conditions" in a truck, a state official said yesterday. The migrants—55 men, 19 women, 23 boys and 18 girls—were found in Playa Munecos, and the two people driving the truck were arrested. Migrants have increasingly sought to travel through Mexico in large groups in trucks in order to avoid Mexican immigration authorities who stepped up efforts to stem the migrant flow after a rise in child migrants in 2014. The number of Central American migrants arrested at the southern US border has fallen sharply since President Donald Trump took office in January.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) North Korea – Cyberspies Target US Defense Contractors Following Nuclear Threats

(U) Pyongyang – The North Korean cyber-espionage group known as the Lazarus Group is reportedly hacking US defense contractors, according to a report published on 14 August by security research firm Palo Alto Networks. The attacks are a continuation of a series of operations Lazarus Group had set in motion in April 2017. Those attacks were aimed at South Korean organizations, but recently Lazarus Group had switched to US defense contractors, most likely in connection to the rising political tensions between the two countries, driven by inflammatory statements from both US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

SOURCE: 16 August 2017, [Daily Mail](#)

(U) Spain – Barcelona Attacker Stabbed Man to Death during Escape

(U) Barcelona – Spain asked the rest of Europe to join the hunt for a young man thought to have been the driver in last week's deadly van attack in Barcelona as police said today that he had also hijacked a car and killed its occupant during his escape. After driving at high speed into crowds on the city's famous avenue Las Ramblas on 17 August, killing 13 people, the suspected extremist fled on foot and then hijacked the car as it was being parked, stabbing the driver to death, police said. The suspect, Moroccan-born Younes Abouyaaqoub, 22, then drove the hijacked car through a police checkpoint, police said. It was later found abandoned, with the man's body inside. Spanish magistrates have sought a Europe-wide arrest warrant for Abouyaaqoub, a judicial source said. Police say he may have crossed the border into France, amid fragments of evidence that appear to link the Barcelona attack's plotters to the country.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria – Despite Losing Terrain, ISIS Attacks Rose in 2016

(U) Damascus – Although ISIS is losing fighters and territory in Iraq and Syria, it remained the world's deadliest militant organization last year, according to a report released last week from the University of Maryland. ISIS operatives carried out more than 1,400 attacks last year and killed more than 7,000 people, a roughly 20 percent increase over 2015, according to the university's Global Terrorism Database. The increase occurred even as overall militant attacks worldwide and resulting deaths fell by about 10 percent in 2016. In addition to violence tied to ISIS's core group in Iraq and Syria, other groups

affiliated with it carried out more than 950 attacks last year that killed nearly 3,000 people, said the university report.

SOURCE: 21 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Man Used Drone to Smuggle Methamphetamines across US-Mexico Border

(U) San Diego – A 25-year-old US citizen has been charged with using a drone to smuggle more than 13 pounds of methamphetamine from Mexico, an unusually large seizure for what is still a novel technique to bring illegal drugs into the United States, authorities said on 18 August. Jorge Edwin Rivera told authorities that he used drones to smuggle drugs five or six times since March, typically delivering them to an accomplice at a nearby gas station in San Diego, according to a statement of probable cause. He said he was to be paid \$1,000 for the attempt that ended in his arrest.

SOURCE: 19 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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